

NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Bill Richardson
Governor
Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

7001 1940 0004 7920 3678

Bill Brancard
Director
Mining and Minerals Division

June 15, 2007

Larry Bush United Nuclear Corporation UNC Holdings 2 P.O. Box 3077 Gallup, NM 87305

RE: United Nuclear Corporation, Prior Reclamation Sites, Anne-Lee Mine, John-Bill Mine, and Sandstone Mine, Prior Reclamation Mine Site Nos, Respectively: MK027PR, MK028PR, and MK029PR

Dear Mr. Bush:

As part of its administration of the New Mexico Mining Act (Act), NMSA 1978, Sections 69-36-1 to 69-36-20, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) is conducting a review of previously active uranium mine sites in New Mexico. That review identified various sites operated by United Nuclear Corporation (UNC), including the Anne Lee, John Bill, and Sandstone mines, which qualify as existing mines under NMSA 1978, Section 69-36-3 (E), but for which no Mining Act permits were ever issued.

The Mining Act and Mining Act Rules, specifically, NMSA 1978, Section 69-36-5 (E), and §19.10.5.511 NMAC, allow an operator or owner of an existing mine where reclamation has previously occurred, to apply to MMD for a determination that the prior reclamation is sufficient to release the mine from the Act's requirements. UNC applied in 1994 for such releases from the Act at the three mines identified above.

Following receipt of UNC's release requests, and after inspecting the mine sites, MMD notified UNC through a letter dated September 29, 1995, that the releases could not be granted and that UNC would be required to complete the permit process for the sites as "existing mines." UNC, however, did not proceed with the permitting process, but chose to appeal MMD's Order regarding the Anne Lee, Sandstone and John Bill Mines to the New Mexico Mining Commission.

The appeal remained on the Commission's docket for a substantial period of time and the Commission, in a *sua sponte* order dated April 29, 1997, ordered the dismissal of UNC's appeal without prejudice for lack of prosecution, unless UNC submitted reasons why the appeal should not be dismissed within thirty days of the Commission's Order.

In a letter dated May 29, 1997, received by the Commission on June 2, 1997, counsel for UNC advised it would seek a variance from MMD and urged the Commission not dismiss its appeal as such dismissal "would prejudice United Nuclear's right to seek review of the Director's Order in this matter." In that same letter, UNC assured that if the variance was granted, it was confident the matter could be resolved quickly and UNC would voluntarily dismiss its petition.

MMD granted UNC a variance in 1998 to extend the time for compliance with the Mining Act by two years. The records indicate that UNC took no further action in this matter when the variance expired in 2000.

Ten years have passed since the Commission issued its order and this matter should now be resolved. To do so, MMD is prepared to file a motion with the Commission requesting the Commission dismiss UNC's appeal for non-prosecution.

Alternatively, it has been twelve years since MMD completed its last inspections at the above mentioned mine sites. Environmental conditions may have changed at the sites to a degree that would warrant further discussion about the requirements for permitting the sites. If UNC were to allow MMD access to the Anne Lee, John Bill, and Sandstone mines so that MMD could determine whether, given the additional passage of time, any further reclamation is required at those sites that may resolve the matter, as well as the pending appeal.

MMD therefore requests UNC contact our office within no less than thirty days of the date of this letter and indicate whether it agrees MMD should proceed to file a dismissal motion or whether UNC is agreeable to providing MMD access to the sites for inspections. MMD anticipates that some or all of the mine sites may no longer be owned by UNC; UNC nevertheless remains obligated to comply with the Mining Act as the operator of existing mines at the sites.

For MMD to complete inspection of the sites, MMD requires a right of entry to each site, site characterization information that may not have been part of UNC's previous release applications, current land ownership information and any other information UNC believes will assist MMD in completing its inspections.

If we do not receive a response within 30 days, MMD will proceed with filing its dismissal motion before the Commission, and may consider enforcement action as appropriate.

Please feel free to call me at 505-476-3437, if you wish to discuss this matter or have questions.

Holland Shepherd

Sincerely.

Program Manager

Mining Act Reclamation program

cc: Karen Garcia, Chief, Mine Reclamation Bureau
Roy Blickwedel, Remedial Project Manager, General Electric
Prior Reclamation Site Files Nos: MK026PR, MK027PR, and MK028PR
Bill Olson, GWQB/NMED









Site Name $\bigcup \bigwedge$	JC Ambro	sia Lake	Date 10/22/9	8
Location Ann L	ee	·	Grid	
Transect Descriptio	n 100' ever	So 2 Feet	¥ 152°	
Investigators Hol	lland shepher	d, Rob Pine	, Ed Moral	43
1 L	2	3 ywng	4	5 BG
6 B.	7 Po	8	9	10 B
11 B . 3	Big	13 S P	14 B/ ₂	15 B >
16 B	17 B	18 B	19 /	²⁰ B :
B	22 <u>L</u>	23 WWG	24 WY 6	25 S P.
26 4 Wing	27 4Wmg	28 B 7	29	30
31 B ₁	32	33 WW6	34 WWG	35
36 SP.	B 7	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45

Total Rock %			
Total Bare Ground %			
Total Grass %	Total Perennial %	Total Annual %_	
Total Forb %			
Total Litter %			

48

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50

B ...

Site Name	IC Ambre	sia Lake	Date $\frac{10}{22}$	8 1
Location Anh	le		Grid	
Transect Description	on 50' ever	ry Foot Y	75°	*
Investigators)		
1 L	2 4	3 WWG	4 WWG	5 4
6 JR	7 IR	8 IR	9 L	10
11	12 R	13 R	14 B	15 B
16 B	17 WW6	18	19	20 WWG
²¹ L	22 4	23	24 	25
26 B(=	27	28 B	29	B ,
31	32	33	34 B	35
³⁶	37	38	39	40 3/-
41 B -	42 R	43	44 C	45
46	47	48	49	50
Total Rock % Total Bare Ground Total Grass % Total Forb % Total Litter %	Total Perer	_ nnial %	Total Annual %	

Site Name UNC	Site Name UNC Ambrosia Lake Date 10/22/98				
Location Ann	Lee		Grid	_ _	
Transect Descriptio	n 50' every 1	<u>'</u>	117°		
Investigators					
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6	7	8	9 3	10 B	
11 B	12 4	13	14 B	15 B	
16 B	17 B	18 	19 B	20 WWG	
²¹ B	22 ww 6	²³ B	²⁴ B	25.	
26 B	3	28	²⁹	30 R	
31 B	32	33 WWG	34 WWG	35	
36 WWG	37 S d S	38 Sd S	B 39	40 B	
41	42	43	44	45	
46	47	48	⁴⁹ <i>L</i>	⁵⁰ L	

Total Rock %			
Total Bare Ground %			
Total Grass %	Total Perennial %	Total Annual %	
Total Forb %			
Total Litter %			

Site Name UNC Ambrosia Lalq	Date 10/22/98
Location Ann Lee	Grid
Transect Description 50' every 1' 7183°	11
Investigators	

1	² B	3	4	5 WW-6
6 B	⁷ L	8 WWG	, MMP	10 WWG
" ww G	<u></u>	13	14 <u> </u>	15 WWG
16	17	18	19 B	20
21	1 R	23 I R	24	25 IR
26	27	28	29	30
31 B	32 B	33	34 5 d S	35
36 IR	37 WWG	1 R	39	40
41 B	42	43	44 IR	45 IR
46 B	47 B	48	49	⁵⁰ B

Total Rock %			
Total Bare Ground %	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
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Total Forb %	·		
Total Litter %	<u></u>		

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		n 50'every 1	/ V 33	Grid 2 S "	
	stigators		V —		
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6		7	8 WWG	9 L	10
11	<u>_</u>	uw6	13 /R	14 1 R-	15
16	۷	17 L	18	19 B ,	20 B -
21	L	22	23	24	25
26	L	27 WW6	28	29	30 B
31	L	32	33	34	35 ww6
36	L	37	38	³⁹ <i>L</i>	40 B
41	WWG	42 WW6	43 WW6	44 YWSb	45 Ywsb
46	www.	47 4 WSb	48 4wsb	49	50 IR
Tota Tota Tota	al Rock %al Bare Ground	% Total Perer		Total Annual %	

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ANN LEE

Table 1.A

% COVER							
COVER TYPE	TRNS 1	TRNS 2	TRNS 3	TRNS 4	TRNS 5	AVG	STD DEV
GRASS and FORBS	14	18	18	30	20	20.0	6.0
PERENNIAL	20	18	18	30	30	23.2	6.3
ANNUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
LITTER	44	50	38	50	58	48.0	7.5
BARE GROUND	36	32	44	20	12	28.8	12.8

Figure 1.A

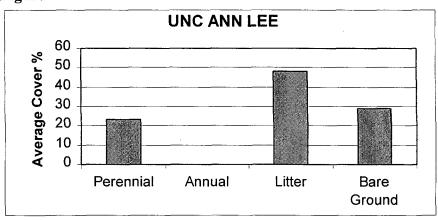
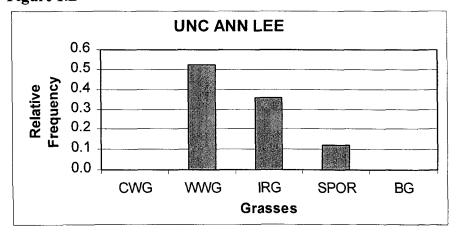
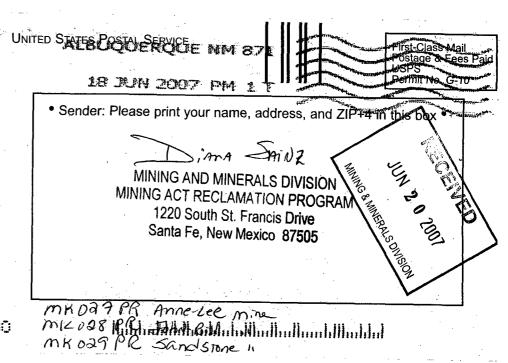


Figure 1.B







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Larry Bush

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Street, Apt. No.; or PO Box No.
P.O. Box 3077

Gallup, NM 87305

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1. Article Addressed to: Larry Bush United Nuclear Corporation UNC Holdings 2 P.O. Box 3077 Gallup, NM 87305	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?
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